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Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

**KEN LUCAS**

FOURTH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

WASHINGTON OFFICE

1205 Longworth H O B  
Washington, D C 20515  
(202) 225.3465

DISTRICT OFFICES

277 Buttermilk Pike  
Port Mitchell, KY 41017  
(859) 426-0080

Fed Bldg, Suite 236  
1405 Greenup Ave  
Ashland, KY 41101  
(606) 324-9898

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

October 8, 2003

Mr. Bryant VanBrakle  
Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission  
800 N. Capitol St, NW  
Washington, DC 20573

P3-03

Dear Secretary VanBrakle:

I am writing regarding Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs) and their interest in the ability to enter into confidential contracts with their customers. I understand that UPS has filed an exemption from the current prohibition and I am writing in support of their petition (P3-03).

UPS is interested in having the ability to offer confidential service contracts to enhance international commerce. From my perspective, granting this petition for UPS as well as other NVOCCs will level the playing field between NVOCCs and vessel operators and ultimately benefit ocean-shipping consumers around the world.

As you know, since the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) was revised in 1998, there have been dramatic changes in the shipping industry, including an unprecedented consolidation among ocean carriers. This has resulted in the loss of major U.S. flagged carriers. When the OSRA changes were made, no one could anticipate the rate at which changes in the market would occur.

I appreciate your serious consideration of the petition filed by UPS and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ken Lucas

Member of Congress

KL:cm